

Message Text

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17 11
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MARR, JA
SUBJECT: ASAHI ARTICLE ON SSC MEETING

DATELINED WASHINGTON, FOLLOWING ARTICLE BY TETSUYA CHIKUSHI,
APPEARED IN "ASAHI" JANUARY 16:

BEGIN TEXT

THE US GOVT HAS AG*EED INPRINCIPLE TO RETURN ABOUT 30
MILITARY BASES ON OKINAWA INCLUDING THE NAVAL PORT AT
NAHA TO JAPAN IN THE BIGGEST PROGRAM TO REDUCE AND CON-
SOLIDATE ITS BASES IN THE ISLAND PREFECTURE.

WHILE DETAILS ARE YET TO BE WORKED OUT, THE TOTAL SPACE
TO BE RETURNED WILL ACCOUNT FOR ABOUT 10 PERCENT OF
THE 275,000,000 SQUARE METERS IN USE AS MILITARY BASES.

THE AGREEMENT WAS REACHED AT A WORKING-LEVEL MEETING
OF THE JAPAN-US SECURITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE HELD
HERE MONDAY.

THE BIGGEST OF THE BASES TO BE RETURNED WILL BE THE NAVAL
PORT AT NAHA. HOWEVER, IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME BEFORE
THE PORT IS TOTALLY RETURNED TO JAPAN, FOR LITTLE WAS
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TALKED ABOUT WHETHER THE CURRENT FACILITIES UNDER USE BY

THE US ARMY WILL BE TRANSFERRED. OPPOSITION BY LOCAL RESIDENTS IS ALSO EXPECTED WHEN A NEW SITE IS SELECTED FOR THE TRANSFER.

OTHER BASES TO BE RETURNED INCLUDE PART OF CAMP KUWAE IN THE CENTRAL PART OF OKINAWA WHERE THE LARGEST US HOSPITAL IN ASIA IS LOCATED. BUT THE OTHER BASES ARE MOSTLY MINOR ONES.

NEGOTIATIONS ON THE RETURN OF PART OF THE KADENA AMMUNITION DEPOT WERE CARRIED OVER TO A LATER DATE, AND WHEN THIS QUESTION IS RESOLVED, THE RETURN OF THE BASES WILL BE FORMALLY DECIDED BY THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE.

US GOVT OFFICIALS EXPLAINED THAT, WHILE THE RETURN OF PART OF THE KADENA AMMUNITION DEPOT HAS BEEN AGREED ON IN PRINCIPLE, FURTHER TALKS ARE NECESSARY AMONG THE US ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE AND MARINE ON THE RE-ALLOCATION PROGRAM OF AMMUNITION DEPOTS. END TEXT.
SHOESMITH

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